

Kittery's Road to Zero Waste

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Four Pillars of Zerowaste

Kittery's Road to Zero Waste Initiative fosters the efficient use of resources through partnerships with local schools and communities. One simple example of partnering is the beautiful recycling signs created by students from the Mitchell School for our facility on MacKenzie Lane. We strive for continued partnering efforts in order to leverage resources and develop educational materials and programs, which build upon four simple principles, Rethink – Reuse – Reduce - Recycle.

RETHINK The time has come for all of us to have a paradigm shift in how we utilize and dispose of the materials we use every day. There never was a place or reason for us to bury or burn what we have seen in negative environmental changes, our planet will not survive our bad habits. It is estimated that landfills will reach capacity in 20 years. We need to stand as one town, one person, one piece of material at a time.

REUSE DPW currently supports the volunteer operation of the Freebie Barn, located at the Solid Waste Facility. The newly renovated and relocated facility is open to residents of Kittery on Wednesday and Saturday. Currently, we collect donated clothing, books, and small household items. Any resident who visits is encouraged to take what they need for their own household. Due to the limited volunteer hours, the facility also has an external drop off for clothing through the organization Planet Aid and books through the Book It organization. Both Book It and Planet Aid are two very valuable partners for our community. Thankfully, some area businesses also host sites for Planet Aid and Book It on their private properties.

REDUCE Waste reduction refers to the process, or policy, of decreasing the amount of waste generated by a person, business, or the community. Besides reducing general consumption, the initiative supports purchasing products with less and reusable packaging. Applying environmentally preferred purchasing standards and educating the public also aid in the goals for Kittery's Road to Zero Waste.

RECYCLE In 2010, Residents in Kittery diverted 22% of the total documented waste by sorting and recycling paper, plastics, aluminum, glass, tin, and cardboard. Our facility is open for residents to bring their recyclables from Tuesday through Saturday, from 9am – 5pm. Currently we only provide recycling drop off for residents at the facility on MacKenzie Lane.

FAST FACT:

*Landfills are ranked as the second highest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.
[Recycling...for the future: Consider the benefits, prepared by the White House Task Force on Recycling
{Washington, DC: Office of the Federal Environmental Executive}, 1998.]*